

**Mendon Planning Commission Minutes (Draft)**  
**February 3, 2020**

**Present:** Justin Lindholm, Fred Bagley, Gary Sihler and Teri Corsones were present. The draft January 6, 2020 minutes were approved as written.

**Cortina Inn:** Manjari Bhakta was present regarding a letter that Ravi Bhakta wrote to Zoning Administrator Steve Cosgrove dated January 15, 2020. Ms. Bhakta was under the impression that a hearing was scheduled for February 3, 2020, as a result of the letter. Teri telephoned Steve Cosgrove to inquire. He indicated that he had received the letter, but had not received the necessary accompanying materials, including an application, filing fee or floor plans. Teri recommended to Ms. Bhakta that she meet with Steve Cosgrove to confirm what information would be needed in order for a hearing to be noticed. She explained that the March MPC meeting will be scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2020, given the conflict with the usual meeting date on the first Monday of the month because of the scheduling of the Mendon Town Meeting on Monday, March 2, 2020. Ms. Bhakta indicated that she would connect with Steve as soon as possible.

**Mendon Town Plan:** Teri reported that the modified Mendon Town Plan has been noticed for a public hearing on Wednesday, February 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mendon Town Office. Members of the Mendon Planning Commission are encouraged to attend, if possible.

**Enhanced Energy Plan:** Teri reported that she spoke with Ed Bove regarding continued work on the Enhanced Energy Plan. He indicated that Barbara Pulling will be able to review the next draft that members submit. Barbara suggested firming up information regarding the “preferred areas” for renewable energy sources. Teri communicated with Rutland City Department of Public Works Commissioner Jeff Wennberg. He indicated that the land associated with the easements sold to the National Park Service in the 90’s (the Appalachian Trail/Beaver Pond areas) would not be suitable for solar arrays. Other locations would need to be evaluated to ensure that water quality protection in the Rutland City Watershed would not be compromised. Justin offered to identify specific sites so that the evaluations could take place.

Members inquired whether the Town of Mendon might receive credit for solar panels at the VTRANS property. Teri will inquire. Members also discussed the

possibility of the VELCO rights of way as a potential “preferred area”. Teri will obtain additional information about the VELCO rights of way in Mendon.

**AT&T Wireless Communication Facility:** Sara has indicated that the new balloon test date has not yet been selected. She asked MPC members for a list of public locations to be evaluated for aesthetic impacts during the balloon test. Justin and Fred offered to provide specific addresses for that purpose. Justin noted that the original balloon test sites appear to be very selectively located so as to appear to show minimal impacts; he believes that slight variations in the locations would yield far greater aesthetic impacts. Potential locations for the photos include Woodard Road, the AOT Garage on Park Lane, Mountain View Lodge, Cortina Pond, Cream Hill Road, Sherwood Park, Journey’s End, Meadow Lake Drive, Mendon Mountain Orchard on Route 4, and Cedar Lane. Justin and Fred will forward specific addresses to Sara in the next several days.

Fred also noted the quality of cell service coverage throughout Mendon. He will continue to document the quality and extent of that coverage.

The next regular meeting of the Mendon Planning Commission is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. at the Mendon Town Office, given the conflict with the March 2, 2020 meeting date because of the Mendon Town Meeting on that date.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Corsones